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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

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The State Superintendent continues a campaign to encourage students and their parents to maintain high academic standards through all four years of high school.

The Superintendent promotes students getting on the Rigorous Core track that provides sound college preparation.

Montana University System Rigorous Core:

- ✓ 4 years of English with designated college-prep or research-writing course.
- ✓ 3 years of Social Studies- American History, World History or World Geography plus another third year course.
- ✓ 4 years of Mathematics- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and one or two years beyond Algebra II depending on which level the student started high school.
- ✓ 3 years of Laboratory Science- Earth Science; Biology; Chemistry or Physics.
- ✓ 2 years of World Language
- ✓ 1 year of Computer Science, Visual and Performing Arts, or Vocational Education.

2007 MONTANA ACT RESULTS:

Montana average composite ACT score: **21.9**

National average composite ACT score: **21.2**

Idaho average composite ACT score: **21.4**

Wyoming average composite ACT score: **21.5**

North Dakota average composite ACT score: **21.6**

South Dakota average composite ACT score: **21.9**

College admission policy guidelines

Highly selective (majority of accepted freshmen in top 10% of high school graduating class)
ACT: **27–31**

Selective (majority of accepted freshmen in top 25% of high school graduating class) ACT: **22–27**

Traditional (majority of accepted freshmen in top 50% of high school graduating class) ACT: **20–23**

Liberal (some freshmen from lower half of high school graduating class) ACT: **18–21**

Open (all high school graduates accepted, to limit of capacity) ACT: **17–20**

ACT Research: www.act.org/research

2007 National Average ACT Science Test Score Increase by High School Science Course Sequence

Course Sequence	Average ACT Science Score	Average ACT Science Score Increase*
Biology, Chemistry, and Physics	23.4	+ 5.4
Biology and Chemistry	20.8	+ 2.8
Biology Only	18.0	

2007 National Average ACT Mathematics Test Score Increase by High School Mathematics Course Sequence

Course Sequence	Average ACT Mathematics Score	Average ACT Math Score Increase*
Core + Advanced Mathematics, Trigonometry, and Calculus	25.7	+ 7.4
Core + Advanced Mathematics and Trigonometry	22.4	+ 4.1
Core + Advanced Mathematics	20.4	+ 2.1
Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry (Minimum Core)	17.9	- 0.4
Less than three courses (Less than Core)	18.3	

* Increase over taking less than three years of mathematics courses

Important Factors in Choosing a College

The first things high school students will probably consider are the **type of academic program** and the **availability of the major—or majors—they most interested in.**

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."